

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6 and 11 are amended. Support for this amendment can be found in Fig. 21 and pages 37-41 of the specification. No new matter is added.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants are concurrently filing an Information Disclosure Statement with this response. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner initial and return the attached PTO form 1449.

Claims 1-7, 9-12 and 14-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2007/0226628 to Schlack in view of U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0103058 to Hamilton. The Office Action also rejects claims 3, 8 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Schlack and Hamilton, and further in view of JP 2003-085347 to Masamichi et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 6 and 11, as amended, now recite that the strength of the influence and the extent of the influence are calculated, for each group, by matching activity data indicating the activities of each group or the concept of each group to activity data indicating the activities of another one of the groups and the concept of said another one of the groups and examining as to whether or not a word representing a common concept in each group is included in the activity data or the concept of said another one of the groups. The applied references do not disclose calculating the strength and extent of influence in this manner.

As such, the applied references do not disclose or suggest the features of claims 1, 6 and 11. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 6 and 11, and claims 2-5, 7-10 and 12-18 depending therefrom, is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:MKW/jfb

Attachment:

Request for Continued Examination
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: August 12, 2009

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